

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 /084 W
-----008146 210658Z /23

R 210332Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1014
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7862

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, SREF, VM, CH, HK
SUBJ: INCREASED CHINESE REFUGEE FLOW FROM VIETNAM

REF: BANGKOK 17041

1. MAJORITY OF RECENT BOAT ARRIVALS IN HONG KONG HAVE HAD SOME CONTACT WITH PRC EN ROUTE HERE. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE FROM REFUGEE INTERVIEWS, PRC FISHERMEN AND MILITIA HAVE BEEN HELPFUL, GIVING REFUGEES WATER, FOOD AND SOME FUEL. IN SEVERAL CASES, REFUGEES HAVE BEEN ACCOMMODATED TEMPORARILY WHILE THEIR BOATS WERE REPAIRED IN PRC. THE GROUP OF 175 ETHNIC CHINESE WHO ARRIVED TWO WEEKS AGO STOPPED AT HAIMAN (NOT UNUSUAL) AND WERE TOLD THEY COULD BE RESETTLED IN PRC, BUT THEY PREFERRED TO CONTINUE ON TO HONG KONG.

2. PERCENTAGE OF ETHNIC CHINESE AMONG BOAT REFUGEE ARRIVALS. HERE HAS INCREASED (OF 567 ARRIVALS BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND 17, SOME 373 WERE SINO-VIETNAMESE), BUT GIVEN LENGTH
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OF TIME INVOLVED TO PREPARE FOR ESCAPE, MOST OF THESE PEOPLE PLANNED TO FLEE BEFORE RECENT DOWNTRUN IN SRV-PRC RELATIONS.

3. WE AGREE WITH COMMENT IN REFTTEL THAT INFLUX OF REFUGEES INTO THE PRC FROM VIETNAM OPENS UP A NUMBER OF RELATED ISSUES. SOME REFUGEES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE BEEN MOVED

INTO CANTON AREA AND ARE BEING CARED FOR BY OVERSEAS
CHINESE COMMITTEE. AS FAR AS HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPT
IS AWARE, NONE SO FAR HAVE SOUGHT ENTRY INTO HONG KONG.
HOWEVER, WE WERE TOLD BY MACAU GOVT SOURCE THAT PRC
ORIENTED BUSINESSMEN IN MACAU ARE CONSIDERING ASKING
CANTON AUTHOIRITIES TO HAVE SOME SINO-VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
RELOACTE IN MACAU.
SHOESMETH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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